



Illinois Children's Justice Task Force

Children's Justice Task Force Quarterly Meeting

February 13, 2020

DCFS Champaign Field Office | 1619 First Street | Conference Room B | Champaign, IL 61820

Virginia M. Zic-Schlomas Presiding

Attendance:

Name	Affiliation	Present	Via Phone	Absent	Committee
Atwood, Tamela	CJTF	X			MDT
Baptist-Spruiell, Sandra	CJTF	X			MDT
Bree, Debra	CJTF	X			MDT
Brown, Leah	CJTF	X			NA
Christopherson, Mari ¹	CJTF		X		NA
Cowart, Lark	CJTF			X	
Glick, Jill	CJTF			X	
Hamann, Paul	CJTF	X			NA
Hoffmann, Molly	CJTF			X	
Karim, Elba	CJTF	X			NA
Ma, Cassandra	CJTF			X	
Mangiaracino, Kim	CJTF	X			NA
McNamara, Kathy	CJTF			X	
Petrak, Channing	CJTF			X	
Porter, Chantelle	CJTF			X	
Rivette, Char	CJTF	X			MDT
Stein, Mary	CJTF	X			MDT
Stoffer, Brian	CJTF	X			NA
Theus, Frederika	CJTF		X		NA
Torres, Rhiannon	CJTF	X			NA
Zic-Schlomas, Virginia	CJTF	X			Both
Talbert, C. Talbert	CJTF (liaison)	X			
Cobbins, Sherry	DCFS	X			NA
Hyman, Lindsay	DCFS		X		
Melton, Carol	DCFS			X	
Polacheck, Stefanie	DCFS		X		
Shirley Davis-Barsh	DCFS		X		
Stutz, Tierney	DCFS	X			MDT

¹ Illinois Casa represented at this meeting by James McIntyre.

Name	Affiliation	Present	Via Phone	Absent	Committee
Brandt, Michael ²	Guest		X		
Dorsey, Danielle ³	Guest				NA
Mbajja, Asia	Guest				
McIntyre, James ⁴	Guest	X			NA
Trotter, Dion ⁵	Guest		X		MDT

- I. **Welcome:** The Chair welcomed everyone about 9:45 AM.
- II. **Roll Call/Guests Introduced**
- III. **Approval of November Meeting Minutes:** Motion made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept with requested changes.⁶
- IV. **Public Comment via Open Meetings ACT:** No comments provided.
- V. **Membership: Appointments and Resignations**
Judge Michael Brandt (Judge)
Dion Trotter (Law Enforcement)
James McIntyre (Potential Youth in Care Role)
- VI. **New Subcommittee Discussion**
The Task Force discussed at length the proposed Subcommittees from the prior meeting. It was decided by unanimous vote that we would create two Subcommittees i) MDT (Multidisciplinary Team Recommendations) and (ii) Needs Assessment.

The MDT Subcommittee's mission and purpose is to bring the report back to life and determine where it needs to be refreshed, updated, and/or re-focused. We would like to measure the progress toward the recommendations and identify what additional work needs to be done. The group should identify how this report fits into the Needs Assessment and how can we hold everyone that participates in the state accountable for the model. Additional focus shall include how the MDT approach can be applied to Human Trafficking. Currently, Illinois has the best CAC & MDT coverage of 101 counties, 98 of which are covered with accredited CAC. All have MOUs. Participants should leverage the structure already in place. Illinois is often the expert in this area.

² Potential Task Force member; credentials submitted; judge category

³ Harvard Police Department

⁴ Represented Illinois Casa; also, a potential Task Force member.

⁵ Potential Task Force member; credentials submitted; law enforcement category

⁶ Human Trafficking Grant corrected from \$550,000 to \$350,000 (Section VIII of the November 20, 2019 minutes)

Action Item: Meet March 19 - Summarize and then work to get a meeting in April with Director.

The Needs Assessment Subcommittee's mission and purpose is to begin working on the Federally mandated Needs Assessment report due Spring of 2021. Task Force would like to leverage existing model and conduct a gap analysis from prior assessments. Suggested areas of focus: Human Trafficking, additional Gap analysis, shorter survey, youth in care, children not seen by the CAC but should be. It has been identified that the Task Force may need a higher-level sponsor within the government to put the recommendations in motion.

The Task Force has money from this year's budget that could be used to start the funding of this work for the Needs Assessment research. The Chair has already been in contact with Steve Budde of the Juvenile Protection Association to gather a proposal for the research.

Action Items:

- **Elba Karim will contact JPA and work to identify where we should focus our efforts.**
- **Sherry Cobbins will research if other state Needs Assessments are available on-line for review.**
- **Paul Hamann will check to see if the HHC Clearing House may be useful for our purposes.**

The Task Force discussed a potential Subcommittee on Human Trafficking. Information was shared that the McCain Institute has one (1) day certification and training in Human Trafficking. A suggestion was made that the Task Force could sponsor DCFS members to attend. The Task Force should collaborate with others already working on this issue within Illinois (DCFS Human Trafficking Liaisons, CAC and Cook County, Program iCare). There was a prior state Task Force but was sunset after the legislation was written.

Action Item: Sherry Cobbins will find contacts.

There was a motion to decline to create a specific Subcommittee related to Human Trafficking based on the finding that there are other identified resources dedicated to the subject. Motion was seconded, and unanimously approved.

Additional considerations while working in Subcommittees

- How can we get in front of this? Pro-active vs re-active
- Best Practices (leverage existing CRP models nationally)
- Legislation/Policy Recommendations
- Do we have the right leadership/representation from DCFS

- How do we bridge CRPs and DCFS

CRP Gateway – How to be successful. www.childwelfare.gov/gateway
Subcommittees should be evaluated annually to ensure effectiveness.

Motion to vote to approve JPA (Juvenile Protection Association) to be paid from this year's budget to begin Needs Assessment work. Seconded and unanimously approved.

Action Items:

- Detailed budget next meeting. Sherry Cobbins will work to get approved.
- Charles Talbert to send out digital copy of 2018 Needs Assessment & 2016 MDT Report.
- Everyone needs to read the executive summary of the 2018 Report.
- Charles Talbert to send Federal language to group re: Needs Assessment
- Rhiannon Torres to create a Google Drive for the Task Force.
- Investigate other best practices and topics for Task Force discussion and knowledge.
- Suggested Action Item: Glossary for Task Force – Define what we mean when we are discussing topics – MDT, Needs Assessment, CAC.

VII. Message from Acting Director Marc Smith – Via WebEx

Director Smith discussed the vision for DCFS to have safety as the priority. Specifically, he has focused on the how DCFS increases the resources to the field and the families served. Additional focus on rebuilding the mechanisms and trying to increase the communication with outside stakeholders and rebuilding the relationships. This is a challenge because of the loss of trust due to lack of effectiveness and impact. DCFS is actively increasing accountability.

Char Rivette spoke about the MDT and Report. Requested Director Smith to consider the ability to discuss how to re-engage the Department on the Task Force's recommendation the recommendation of the MDT model.

Action Item: Tierney Stutz to run point and set up a meeting to discuss.

VIII. DCFS Legislative Update - Carol Melton, Assist. Deputy General Counsel/Ethics Officer

Tomorrow is the legislative filing deadline.

Two new DCFS initiatives:

- 1) Adoption Preservation Services – Change to the bill to state a call back within 1 (one) business day call back vs. 24-hour time-frame for crisis.
- 2) Sewell Advisory Board –

Potential: Lottery Scratch Off Ticket that would provide funding to child welfare.

HB4769 – DCFS is considering its position to amend ANCRA & Medical Bill of Rights Act.

Bill to change neglect definition related to certain medical care objections.

Mandated Reporter – Athletic Director & Shelter Care Worker in ANCRA as mandated reporter.

Char Rivette presented information to legislation important to the CAC. Child Welfare Bill revised to address the gap identified in our Needs Assessment. Proposing that it be a right of a child in Illinois to have access to the CAC and MDT model. CAC switching to a statewide database that will be a better way to collect the data. Working with DCFS to correlate the data to identify the gap. Current information is antidotal. Law enforcement & DCFS refer victims to CAC. Suggestion that the right should be in the crime victims act.

Make Safe Task Force – SB456 Response to the Chicago Public Schools inappropriate investigations related to school personnel investigations. Defers the interviews to law enforcement and CAC so inappropriate and repeated investigations are not happening.

Child Shield Act – So Child victims don't have to be in court. Char Rivette & Mary Stein. Elba Karim mentioned VOCA Grant is before but not after. Need to address the post-trial trauma.

Additional discussion by the Task Force on taking a position on legislation. Can we utilize the Slip Process? Is there anything that prohibits us from doing so? As a CRP are there any conflicts or issues? There does not appear to be any prohibition in that statute for CRP to make a legislature recommendation. Our Bylaws are separate. We should make clear the position is as a CRP/Children's Justice Task Force after a vote.

IX. DCFS Child Protective Services Update - Tierney Stutz

Her role is to take care of relationship between the Task Force and DCFS. Under the new acting Director DCFS has been re-structured to enable more movement and carry out the messages of (i) support and (ii) accountability. DCFS is working with Chapin Hall to implement their recommendations after the recent in-depth review.

X. New Subcommittees (During Working Lunch)

Task Force Members met in their new MDT and Needs Assessment Subcommittees to decide next steps. Chairs of each subcommittee will reach out to the committee members prior to the next meeting.

XI. DCFS Advisory Councils - Stephanie Polacheck, Assoc. Deputy Director External Communications and Advisory Groups
Postponed.

XII. Presentation Asia by Asia Mbajja

African Humanitarian of the Year 2019. Fellow visiting the Chicago Children's Advocacy Center. Ms. Mbajja works to educate and prevent HIV and Sexual Abuse for Children. Her work is particularly challenging as she is in an area where beliefs that sleeping with young girls create good fortune. There is no local government support and the girls she works with are not getting basic needs met and are not attending school.

XIII. New Business: Duplicate Mandated Reports – Elba Karim

There may be an issue with duplicate hotline calls after a referral from the CAC for the therapist. There seems to be a disconnect from the Mandated Reporter legislation to licensing requirements. Potential gap to identify in Subcommittees.

Action Item: Sherry Cobbins to link Elba Karim with policies.

XIV. Parking Lot Items

Next Meeting Date Survey
MCO Transition

XV. Upcoming Meetings

- May 13, 2020 Fairview Heights
- August 12, 2020 (Quincy)
- November 11 is a Holiday. Meeting changed to November 12 (Chicagoland Area) Night Ministry, St. Charles as possible locations.
- February 10, 2021 (Peoria)
- May 12, 2021 – (Carbondale) To be determined.

Agenda Items for next meeting:

- Update on MDT Meeting
- MCO Healthcare Transition
- Meeting Locations for future meetings

Action Items:

- **Charles Talbert to send hotel information in advance**
- **Sign in Sheet will be provided at subsequent meetings to track attendance**

XVI. Meeting adjourned at about 2:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Rhiannon Torres, Secretary
Children's Justice Task Force